

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 SP-02
ACDA-07 SS-15 FEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00 ERDA-05 OIC-02 CEQ-01
EPA-01 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 /122 R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/RD:HBENGELSDORF:JCOON:AN
APPROVED BY OES/NET:MBKRATZER
IO/SCT:FLANCETTI
EUR/RPE:ASENS
NEA/INC:DKUX
PM/NPO:LNSENZO
S/P:JKAHAN
ACDA:CVAN DOREN
EA/J:DLAMBERTSON
C:LFUERTH
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

-----310937Z 042427 /10

P R 310856Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 314145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:AORG, IAEA, TECH, PARM
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SUBJ PROPOSAL BY THE IAEA DIRGEN FORMEETING
OF SENIOR POLICY MAKERS TO ADVISE AGENCY ON REPROCESSING
AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

REF: IAEA VIENNA 10363

PASS TO IAEA VIENNA FOR AMBASSADOR STONE

1. IN A LETTER TO AMBASSADOR STONE DATED DECEMBER 21, IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL SIGVARD EKLUND INVITED A NUMBER OF SPECIFIED REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOME LEADING NUCLEAR COUNTRIES TO ATTEND A MEETING IN VIENNA ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING AND WASTE DISPOSAL AND TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AS TO THE BROAD LINES OF GUIDANCE THAT THE AGENCY SHOULD GIVE TO ITS MEMBER STATES IN THIS AREA. THE TEXT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S LETTER FOLLOWS IN SEPTEL. IN ADDITION TO THE U.S., THE OTHER INVITEES WERE ANDRE GIRAUD (FRANCE), HOMI SETHNA (INDIA), SIR JOHN HILL (UK), I. MOROKOV (USSR), C. JULIUS HOFFMANN (FRG RESREP), AMBASSADOR T. CARTER (CANADIAN RESREP), AMBASSADOR Y. KATORI (JAPANESE RESREP), AMBASSADOR C. WOLLIN (SWEDISH RESREP).

2. MESSRS. SETHNA, HILL AND MOROKOV REPORTEDLY HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

3. BACKGROUND: BASED ON EKLUND'S LETTER AND LIST OF ATTENDEES, IT APPEARS CLEAR THAT EKLUND IS TRYING TO FORGE SOME TYPE OF POLICY LEVEL CONSENSUS AS TO WHETHER NUCLEAR REPROCESSING SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED OR DISCOURAGED WITH THE IDEA THAT IF A CONSENSUS MANIFESTS ITSELF, THE CONCLUSION COULD BE FORMULATED AND PASSED ON TO THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

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4. FYI: WE ARE CONCERNED BOTH ABOUT THE FORUM AND THE TIMING OF SUCH A DISCUSSION. MANY OF THE INVITEES LISTED ABOVE ARE FROM THE COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR SECTOR OR REPRESENT COUNTRIES ALREADY STRONGLY COMMITTED TO REPROCESSING. SHOULD SUCH A MEETING TAKE PLACE, THE U.S. MIGHT FIND ITSELF IN A MINORITY POSITION, SUPPORTED BY FEW OTHERS. MOREOVER, SUCH A MEETING COULD LEAD TOWARD A POLARIZATION OF VIEWS WHICH WOULD BE HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE AND TEND TO LIMIT THE FUTURE FLEXIBILITY OF ALL PARTIES. IN ANY EVENT, GIVEN THE LIST OF INVITEES, WE DOUBT THAT MEETING WOULD PRODUCE A TRULY REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE, ADEQUATELY INCLUDING VIEWS OF THOSE KNOWN TO FAVOR A CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD REPROCESSING. OUR STRONGLY PREFERRED MECHANISM FOR DEALING WITH SUCH ISSUES AT THIS STAGE IS THROUGH THE LONDON SUPPLIERS GROUP AND ASSOCIATED BILATERALS.

5. WITH RESPECT TO TIMING, AS ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE AWARE,

IN HIS OCTOBER 28 NUCLEAR POLICY MESSAGE, PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCED THE ADOPTION OF A SUBSTANTIALLY MORE CONSTRAINED U.S. POLICY TOWARD CHEMICAL REPROCESSING, INCLUDING DEFERRAL BY THE U.S. OF COMMERCIALIZATION IN THIS FIELD UNTIL THE ALTERNATIVES ARE FULLY EVALUATED AND A NUMBER OF UNCERTAINTIES AND PROBLEMS ARE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE STATED THAT THE U.S. INTENDED TO SHAPE A TECHNICAL EVALUATION PROGRAM IN WHICH OTHER NATIONS WOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. MOREOVER, AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, THE PRESIDENT RECOMMENDED A NUMBER OF MUTUALLY REINFORCING ACTIONS INCLUDING DEFERMENT OF EXPORTS OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS WHILE A NUMBER OF COROLLARY ACTIONS ARE TAKEN TO UPGRADE GLOBAL NON-PROLIFERATION CONSTRAINTS.

6. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER HAS ISSUED A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS FAVORING A SIMILARLY CONSTRAINED ATTITUDE
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TOWARD REPROCESSING, THE DEPARTMENT OBVIOUSLY IS UNABLE TO SPECULATE AT THIS TIME ON THE VIEWS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. DR. EKLUND PROPOSES TO CONVENE THE SUBJECT MEETING SHORTLY AFTER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TAKES OFFICE. SINCE ANY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WOULD REQUIRE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS HIGHLY SENSITIVE SUBJECT, WE BELIEVE THE TIMING PLACES AN UNFAIR BURDEN ON THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION. END FYI.

7. FOR IAEA VIENNA. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP DIRECTLY AND URGENTLY WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND EXPRESS OUR STRONG DESIRE THAT THE MEETING BE DEFERRED INDEFINITELY. YOU MAY POINT OUT THAT THE PROPOSED DATE, SO SOON AFTER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TAKES OFFICE, COULD BE CONSTRUED AS PLACING UNDUE PRESSURE ON THE USG DURING A PERIOD WHEN WE ARE CAREFULLY REVIEWING AND FORMULATING OUR POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO REPROCESSING AND RELATED ISSUES. MOREOVER, GIVEN THE PRESENT LIST OF

INVITEES, WE VERY MUCH DOUBT THAT DISCUSSIONS AT THIS TIME COULD RESULT IN A USEFUL CONSENSUS AND THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, SUCH A MEETING COULD LEAD TO AN UNFORTUNATE SHARPENING OF DIFFERENCES. WE WOULD PREFER, PRIOR TO ANY SUCH MEETING, TO CONSULT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER CHANNELS WITH OTHER SUPPLIERS BEFORE TAKING UP SUCH IMPORTANT AND SENSITIVE ISSUES IN A BROAD FORUM.

8. FOR OTTAWA: ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZER RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM DWIGHT FULFORD, DIRGEN OF TECH-

NOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, DECEMBER 23, INQUIRING ABOUT U.S. VIEWS ON
MEETING. KRATZER OUTLINED OUR POSITION IN GENERAL TERMS.
EMBASSY OTTAWA MAY INFORM FULFORD THAT WE ARE APPROACH-
ING EKLUND ALONG LINES INDICATED ABOVE.

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9. FOR PARIS, LONDON, BONN, TOKYO, STOCKHOLM AND MOSCOW:
EMBASSIES SHOULD RAISE SUBJECT PROMPTLY WITH APPROPRIATE
SENIOR HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND INFORM THEM THAT WE
ARE URGING DG TO POSTPONE SUCH A MEETING INDEFINITELY.
YOU MAY STRESS THE PROBLEM OF TIMING WHICH MEETING POSES
FOR USG SO SOON AFTER NEW ADMINISTRATION TAKES OFFICE.
YOU MAY ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT WE PREFER TO DISCUSS SUCH
ISSUES IN THE FIRST INSTANCE IN THE SUPPLIERS GROUP AND
ASSOCIATED BILATERAL FORMS.

10. FOR BOMBAY: YOU MAY INFORM SETHNA THAT THE U.S. IS
REQUESTING THE DG TO POSTPONE THE MEETING IN VIEW OF
PROPOSED DATE SO SOON AFTER ADMINISTRATION TAKES OFFICE.
ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MANAGEMENT, RADIOACTIVE WASTES DISPOSAL, NUCLEAR FUELS, MEETINGS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE314145
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HBENGELSDORF:JCOON:AN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D770001-0370
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976121/aaaaaadp.tel
Line Count: 195
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 IAEA VIENNA 10363
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSAL BY THE IAEA DIRGEN FORMEETING OFSENIORPOLICY MAKERS TO ADVISE AGENCY ON REPROCESSING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
TAGS: AORG, TECH, PARM, IAEA, (EKLUND, SIGVARD)
To: IAEA VIENNA BOMBAY LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006